



JUNE 1, 2023 | ISSUE 53

Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.

TPA Transition Announcement

The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association is transitioning Third-Party Administrators (TPA) for the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association Retirement Plan and Trust. The Retirement Board of Trustees voted unanimously to transition from Toledano and Associates Inc. and to contract with Milliman based on cost savings compared with services provided.

The decision to change providers is the result of the Retirement Trustees fulfilling their financial responsibility of researching and reviewing the cost of the administration of the Trust in conjunction with the services provided. The transition to Milliman, an established TPA service provider with 75 years of experience, will provide members with better tools, resources, and cost savings.

Toledano has diligently provided excellent service for over three decades and we extend our sincerest thanks to the Toledano team for years of outstanding customer service and steadfast fulfilment of duties for the over 12,000 Association members participating in the Retirement Trust for volunteer and career firefighters.

Retirement Trustees expect the transition period from Toledano to Milliman to extend through the end of the year.

We are prioritizing full transparency during this transition and welcome any questions. Please stop by the Association's booth at Fire-Rescue on Friday, June 16 from 9 a.m.-4p.m. or Saturday, June 17 from 9 a.m.-2p.m. if you would like to talk about the transition.

If you have questions, please contact Association Deputy Director Jamie Helms at jamie.helms@scfirefighters.org or 803-454-1800.

Important voting information



FIRE-RESCUE
SOUTH CAROLINA



**VOTING
INFORMATION**

The voting period opened yesterday

The voting period for 3rd and 4th Vice President opened yesterday, Wednesday, May 31.

All voting members will cast their vote for 3rd and 4th Vice President using the SurveyMonkey email sent to their email address listed in the Association's database.

Voting members should have received your SurveyMonkey voting ballot via email yesterday, Wednesday, May 31. Please check your junk mail and spam folders for the voting ballot. You may need to contact your IT support for assistance if you are unable to locate the voting ballot.

If it is determined that you haven't received your voting ballot, you must email your first and last name, fire department you are representing, and your email address to vote@scfirefighters.org as soon as possible so that we can work with you to cast your vote.

In the event of a tie, a new SurveyMonkey link will be sent shortly after all candidates have been notified of the initial results (after 12 p.m. noon on Friday, June 16).

Additionally, voting members present at Fire-Rescue will vote to accept two new by-laws changes during the business meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2023. The changes are minor but require a vote from the voting members present. **Voting members must be present during the Business Meeting to vote on the by-laws changes.**

Proposed change 1

The first proposed change to includes adding that the Deputy Director and/or the Executive Director shall approve all expenditures before payment and the Deputy Director and/or Executive Director shall sign all checks.

Constitution

Page 11

Article IV. Duties of Officers and Officials

Section 2. Duties of the Executive Director

E. The Executive Director and/or Deputy Director shall approve all expenditures before payment and the signature of the Executive Director and/or Deputy Director shall appear on all checks.

Proposed change 2

The second proposed change is to the Installation of Officers, stating that

Supervisory and Standing Committee Chairs (Training & Education Committee, Health & Safety Committee, Member Benefits Committee, Strategic Planning Committee) shall be sworn in at the Transfer of Command ceremony during the annual conference.

By-Laws

Page 21

Section VIII. Installation of Officers

Subsection 1. Installation of Vice Presidents and Immediate Past President Officers

The installation of officers (Vice Presidents, Immediate Past President, Supervisory and Standing Committee Chairs) shall take place at the Transfer of Command Ceremony at the Annual Conference with appropriate ceremonies and officer shall swear to the following oath of office...

If you are a voting member and attending Fire-Rescue, you will need to receive a special voting member badge. Please take special care to check-in at the voting member kiosks to receive the badge that delineates you as a voting member.



Community event



Remembering James Michael Muller

The South Carolina fire service is mourning the loss of [Irmo Fire District Firefighter James "Jay" Michael Muller](#), 25, after he died from injuries sustained during an apartment fire on the afternoon of Friday, May 26, 2023.

Irmo Chief Mike Sonefeld described Jay as "one in a million." In 2016, Jay was an intern with IFD and was named the Lexington Technology Center Student of the Year. The Student of the Year award announcement read in part, "Jay transferred to Lexington One this year after moving to South

Carolina and his LTC experience is somewhat different from other students in Firefighting. His previous school didn't offer Firefighting so he is completing the program in one year. Normally it is a two-year process; however, Jay convinced Chief Hildebrand and the administrators at LTC to make an exception and allow him to enroll in both Firefighting 1 and 2 this year. His interest in Firefighting was that strong. He has maintained an excellent academic record in these courses and will apply for state and national certifications this spring in Firefighting 1, Firefighting 2, Hazardous Materials Operation and Vehicle Extrication."

"He was never not a firefighter," Irmo Assistant Chief Sloane Valentino recalled when telling a story of how Jay would take his son to the park—by jogging the eight miles there and back with a vest on.

Jay is a graduate of the Officer Academy Class 23-01 and gave his all, all the time.

The Irmo Fire Foundation is accepting [donations](#) on behalf of the Muller family if you would like to donate. The funeral service is available on the Riverland Hills Baptist Church [YouTube channel](#).

Please join the Executive Committee and staff in a prayer for peace, comfort, and understanding for the Muller family, Irmo Fire, Columbia Fire, Cayce Fire, and all those who love Jay Muller.

*When I am called to duty, God wherever flames may rage,
give me strength to save a life, whatever be its age.
Help me to embrace a little child before it's too late,
or save an older person from the horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert to hear the weakest shout,
and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me,
to guard my neighbor and protect his property.
And if according to your will I have to lose my life,
bless with your protecting hand my loving family from strife.*

—**Firefighter prayer**

Was this email forwarded to you? Subscribe to receive Rattle Watch every Thursday.



- [June 14 - Foundation Golf Tournament](#)
- June 14 - Beach Bash with SCFIS
- [June 16 - Jr./Explorer Competition](#)
- [June 14-17 - Fire-Rescue](#)
- [August 24 - 1% Regional Training Class: Beaufort County](#)
- October 1-6 - Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer class 23-02
- [October 17 - 1% Regional Training Class: York County](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

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